Amendments to the Claims

1.   (Currently amended)   A method of enabling a particular user to program the particular user's remote control device for use with the particular user's consumer electronics equipment, the method comprising:

connecting an Internet-connectable appliance to a server on the Internet in response to the particular user controlling the particular user's remote control device, the server having an associated customer base comprising respective user profiles, each of the respective user profiles identifying consumer electronics equipment associated with a respective remote control device of a respective user;

responsive to the connecting of the Internet-connectable appliance, selecting, at the server, a particular one of the respective user profiles that is associated with the particular user's remote control device;

responsive to the selecting, downloading, from the server to the Internet-connectable appliance, data representative of at least one control code for use with the particular user's consumer electronics equipment; and

using the Internet-connectable appliance for programming the particular user's remote control device according to the downloaded data for controlling the particular user's consumer electronics equipment.

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2.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a menu to the particular user for customizing the programming of the particular user's remote control device.

3.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting a wireless signal from the Internet-connectable appliance to the particular user's remote control device for the programming thereof.

4.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein:

~~further comprising enabling~~ the particular user notifies ~~to notify~~ the server, through the Internet-connectable appliance, of one or more items of the particular user's consumer electronics equipment for which to download the data representative of the at least one control code;

wherein the server is responsive to the notifying for updating the respective user profile of the particular user.

Claims 5 and 6.   (Cancelled)

7.   (Currently amended)   A system, comprising:

an Internet-connectable appliance; and

a remote control device for user-control of the Internet-connectable appliance; wherein:

the remote control device has a button for causing the Internet-connectable appliance to initiate connecting to a server on the Internet;

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the remote control device is programmed to send a user profile data identifying consumer

electronics equipment to the server via the Internet-connectable appliance;

the server maintains a customer base comprising a plurality of user profiles, including a

user profile that is responsive to the user profile data sent by the remote control device;

wherein the server uses the user profile data to obtain control data for programming the

remote control device to control the consumer electronics equipment, and sends the control data

to the Internet-connectable appliance; and

the Internet-connectable appliance receives the control data from the server and programs

the remote control device based on the data received control data to control the consumer

electronics equipment from the server, according to the user profile associated with the remote

control device.

8.   (Previously presented)   The system of claim 7, wherein the Internet-connectable

appliance allows a user to customize the programming of the remote control device.

9.   (Previously presented)   The system of claim 7, wherein the Internet-connectable

appliance transmits a wireless signal to the remote control device for achieving the programming

of the remote control device.

10.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the Internet-connectable

appliance comprises a set top box.

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11.   (Previously presented)   A method of creating a customer base comprising a plurality of user profiles, the method comprising:

enabling respective users of consumer electronics equipment to specify, to a server on a data network, information about the respective users' consumer electronics equipment to create a plurality of respective user profiles for the customer base;

enabling to program, via the data network, remote user control of the respective users' consumer electronics equipment according to the information; and

storing the information in the customer base.

12.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 11, further comprising:

supplying respective remote control devices for each of the respective users that are pre-programmed for use with respective set top boxes;

wherein the method is used for subsidizing the respective set top boxes.

13.   (Cancelled)

14.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 11, further comprising using the customer base to provide customized services to the respective users.

15.   (Previously presented)   A method of providing a customized service to a user of consumer electronics equipment, the method comprising:

receiving, at a server on a data network, information about the user's consumer electronics equipment;

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providing a user profile based on the information; and

using the user profile to enable the user to program, via the data network, a remote

control device for controlling the user's consumer electronics equipment;

wherein the server stores the information in a customer base comprising a plurality of

user profiles, and each of the plurality of user profiles comprises at least one of (1) demographic

information for an associated user and (2) consumer electronics equipment information for an

associated user.

16.   (Currently amended)   A method of enabling a user to control a particular apparatus

with a remote control device via an appliance that is Internet-connectable, the method

comprising:

connecting the appliance to a server on the Internet in response to the user controlling the

remote control device, the server having an associated customer base comprising a plurality of

user profiles, each of the plurality of user profiles identifying one or more apparatuses for an

associated user; and

downloading, from the server to the appliance, data representative of at least one control

code for control of the particular apparatus via the appliance, according to a user profile

associated with the remote control device, and responsive to the connecting of the appliance to

the server.

17.   (Previously presented)   An Internet-connectable appliance, comprising:

a look-up table that is programmed with data downloaded from a server on the Internet,

the server having an associated customer base comprising a plurality of user profiles, each of the

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plurality of user profiles identifying consumer electronics equipment for an associated user, the

data being downloaded according to a user profile associated with the remote control device;

wherein the look-up table maps a first control code, received from a remote control

device, onto a second control code for control of an apparatus via the appliance.

18.   (Previously presented)   A computer-implemented method for enabling a plurality

of respective users to create a customer base, the method comprising:

uploading, to a server, respective user profiles of the plurality of respective users, via

respective Internet-connectable appliances associated with respective remote control devices of

the plurality of respective users; and

compiling the respective user profiles to provide the customer base;

wherein the respective user profiles identify consumer electronics equipment associated

with the respective remote control devices of the plurality of respective users.

19.   (Currently amended)   The method of claim 2 1, wherein the menu allows the

particular user to specify whether certain operations provided by the downloaded data are

desired.

20.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the menu allows the

particular user to program a single action on the particular user's remote control device to cause

the execution of multiple activities of the particular user's consumer electronics equipment.

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21.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a display with a graphical representation of the particular user's remote control device for use in the programming of the particular user's remote control device.

22.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

downloading, from the server to the Internet-connectable appliance, user interface data regarding the particular user's remote control device.

23.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 22, further comprising:

using the Internet-connectable appliance for the programming of the particular user's remote control device according to the user interface data.

24.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 22, further comprising:

the user interface data provides information regarding features that support user interaction with the user's remote control device.

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